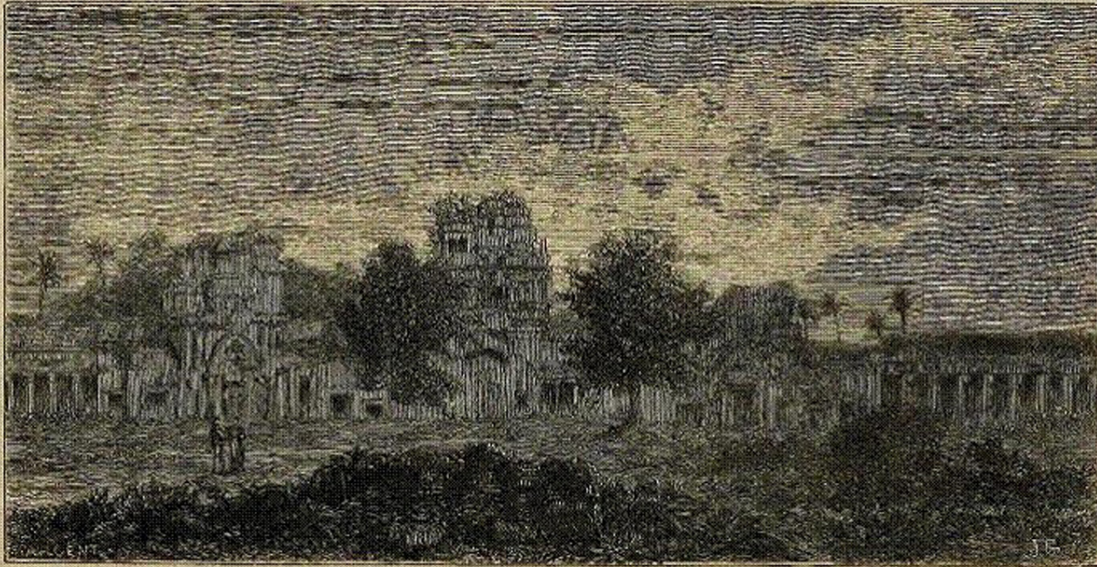


Angkor Wat – Vishnu Temple By Bhakta John Jagannatha

Hare Krishna. You will find here illustrations with their original descriptive words from a mid-19th century book and an early 20th century book and a few words excerpted from one 21st century book in an attempt to present some historical perspective on Angkor Wat, one of the many Vishnu temples that exist all over the Earth.

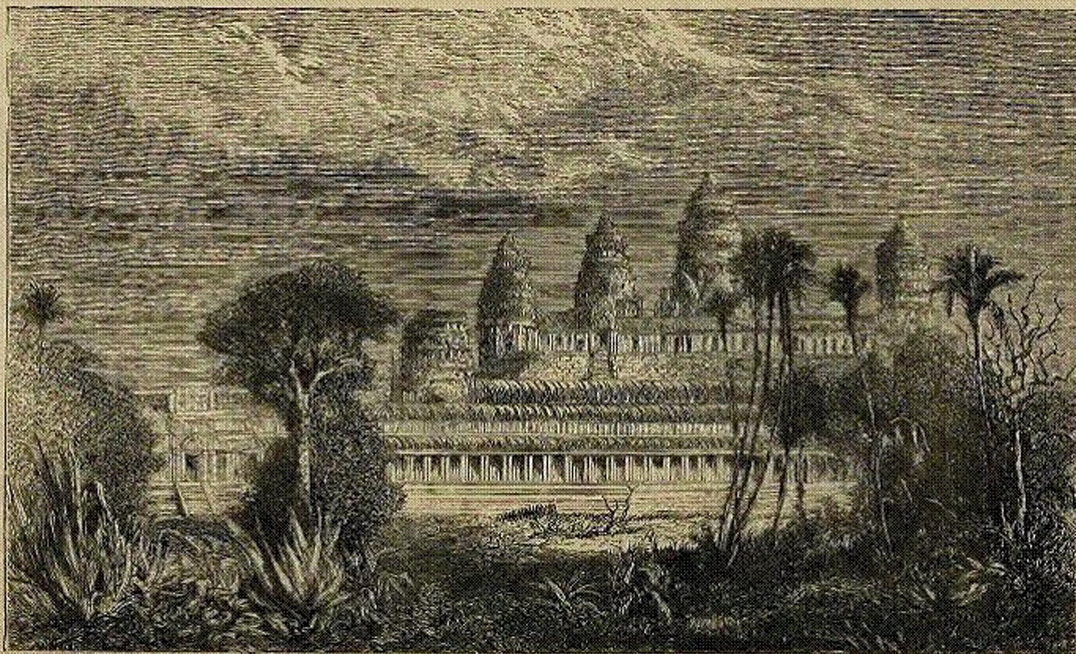
The first group of illustrations comes from -
Travels in the Central Parts of Indo-China (Siam), Cambodia, and
Laos, During the Years 1858, 1859 and 1860.
By the late M. Henri Mouhot, French Naturalist.





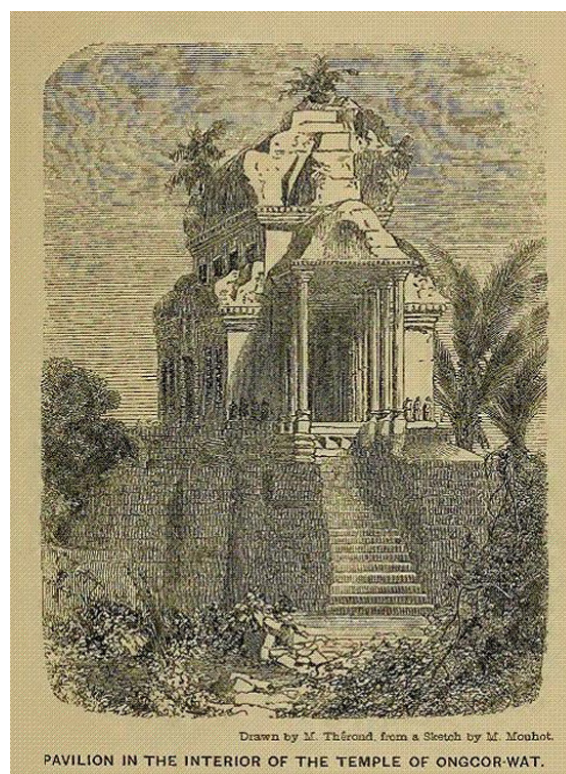
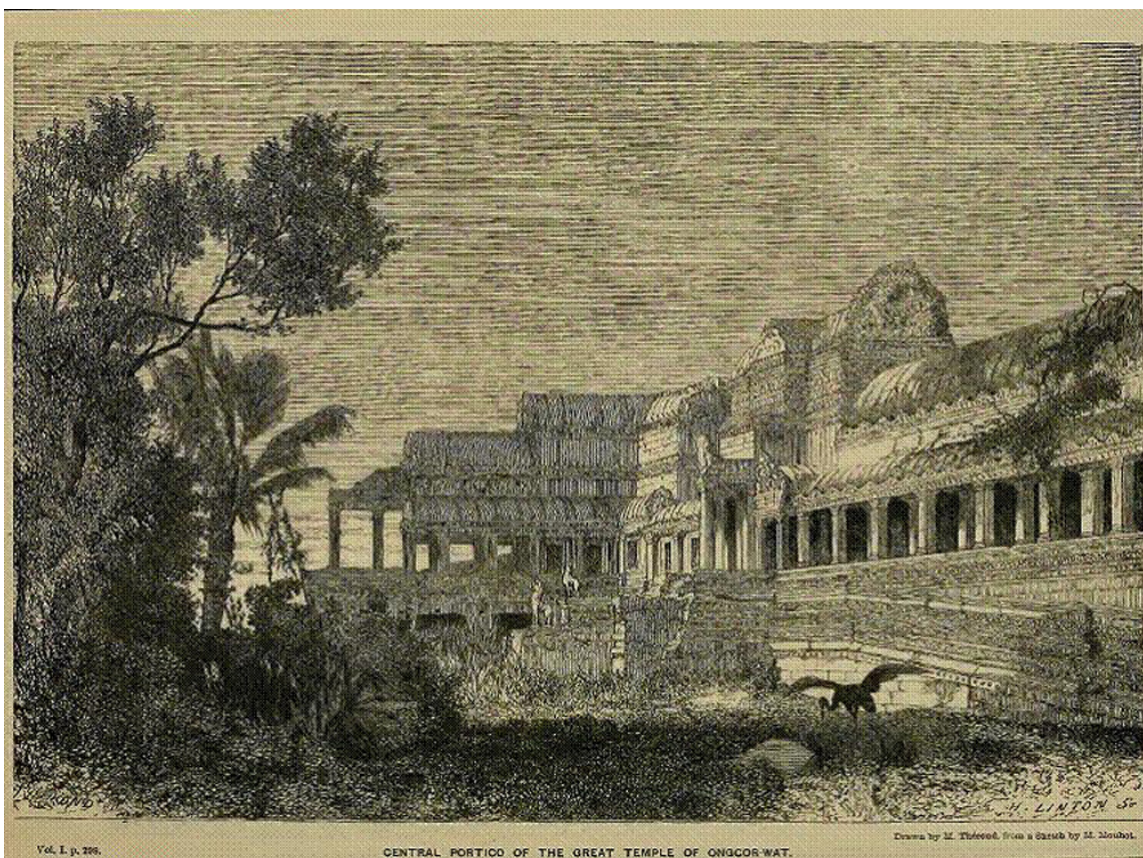
Drawn by M. Goussard, from a Sketch by M. Mouhot.

PRINCIPAL ENTRANCE OF THE GREAT TEMPLE OF ONGCOR WAT.



Drawn by M. Goussard, from a Sketch by M. Mouhot.

TEMPLE OF ONGCOR WAT, NORTH SIDE.



The second group of illustrations comes from –
Richard Halliburton's Second Book of Marvels
The Orient
A TALE FROM THE JUNGLE 1938



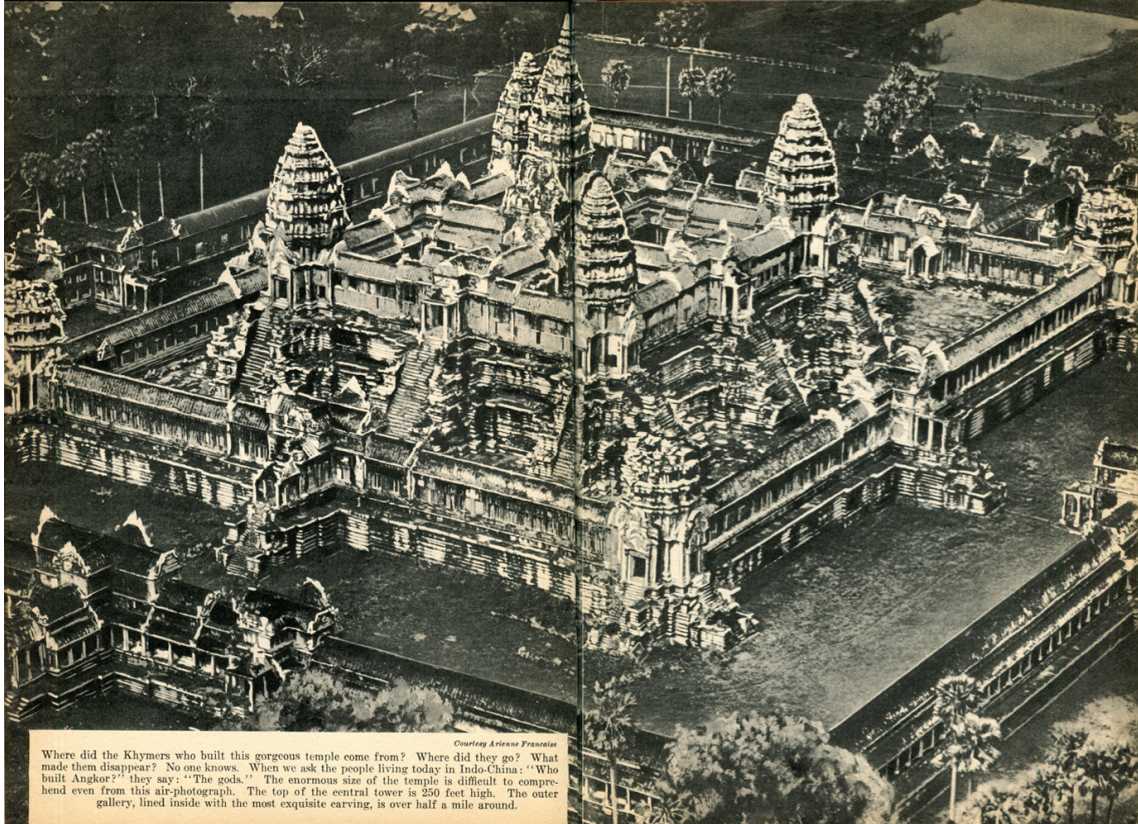
Illustrated map of China and Japan of 1938



The great temple at Angkor, in Indo-China, is the largest and finest temple standing in the world today. Built more than 500 years ago by a vanished race of master-builders called the Khymers, this mammoth temple has been wonderfully preserved despite the efforts of the jungle to destroy it. It is the biggest building in Asia, yet no coral cameo was ever so delicately fashioned as each block of its building stone. After being lost for centuries in the depths of the forest, Angkor was re-discovered, accidentally, in 1861 by a French naturalist looking for butterflies.

Lionel Green.

The great temple at Angkor, in Indo-China, is the largest and finest temple standing in the world today. Built more than 500 years ago by a vanished race of master-builders called Khymers, this mammoth temple has been wonderfully preserved despite the efforts of the jungle to destroy it. It is the biggest building in Asia, yet no coral cameo was ever so delicately fashioned as each block of its building stone. After being lost for centuries in the depths of the forest, Angkor was re-discovered, accidentally, in 1861 by a French naturalist looking for butterflies.



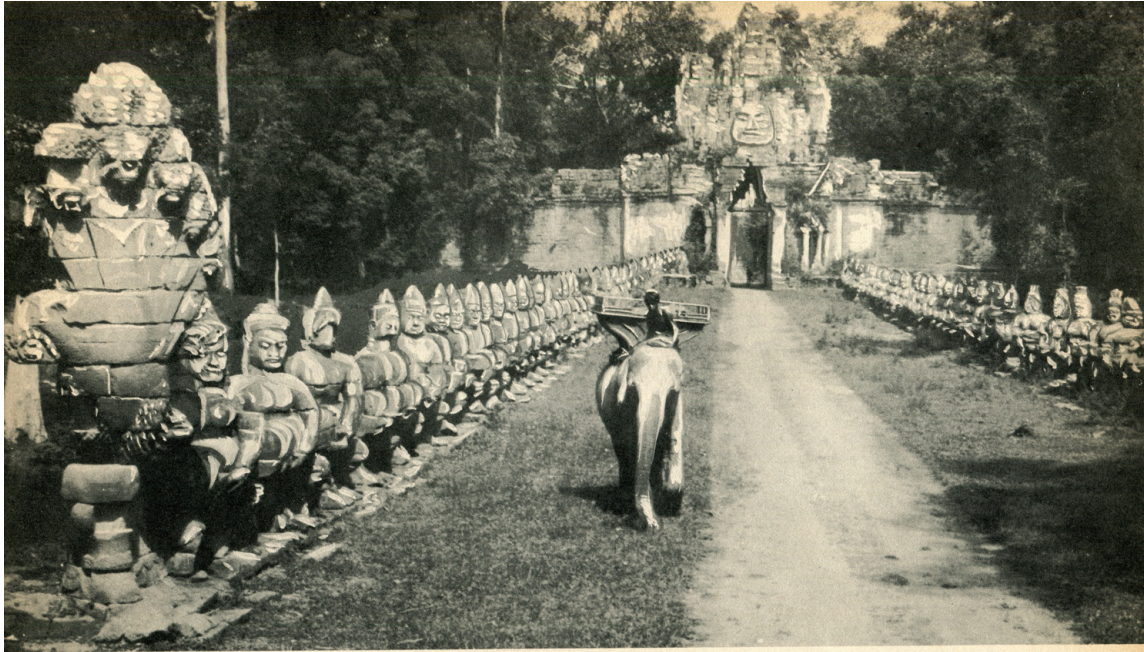
Where did the Khymers who built this gorgeous temple come from? Where did they go? What made them disappear? No one knows. When we ask the people living today in Indo-China: "Who built Angkor?" they say: "The gods." The enormous size of the temple is difficult to comprehend even from this air-photograph. The top of the central tower is 250 feet high. The outer gallery, lined inside with the most exquisite carving, is over half a mile around.



Black Star.

The city of Angkor is protected by a high wall. Piercing the wall are five magnificent Victory Gates like this one. Each gate is 65 feet high. At the top are four heads of the greatest Khymer god, facing the four points of the compass. When the French naturalist came upon the gate, at the time of the discovery of Angkor, the jungle had covered all the lower tiers of stone, so that the explorer saw only the huge stone faces peering at him from the treetops.

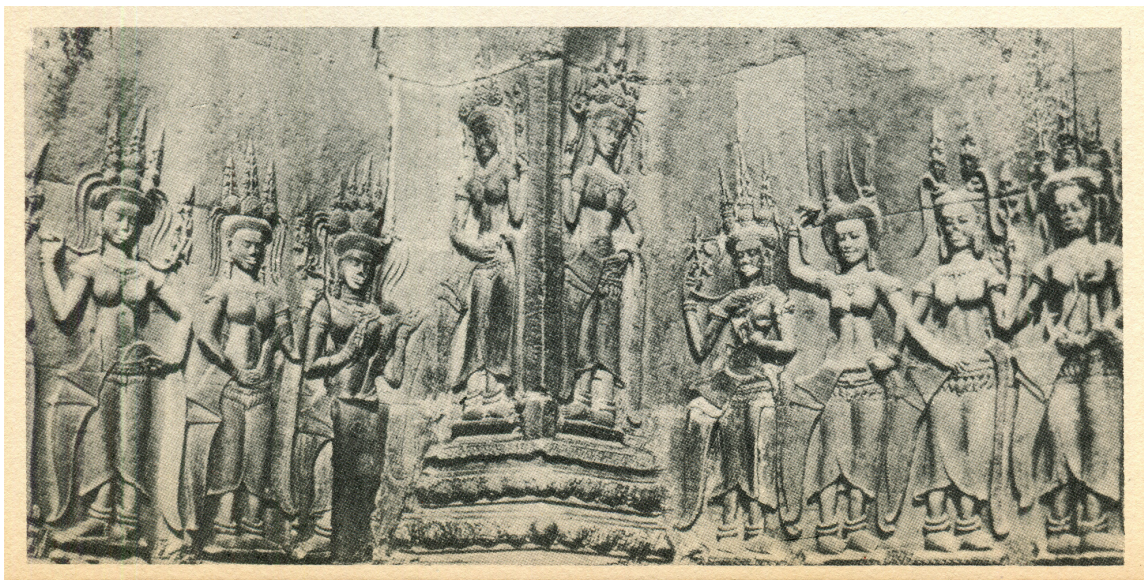
The city of Angkor is protected by a high wall. Piercing the wall are five magnificent Victory Gates like this one. Each gate is 65 feet high. At the top are four heads of the greatest Khymer god, facing the four points of the compass. When the French naturalist came upon the gate, at the time of discovery of Angkor, the jungle had covered all the lower tiers of stone, so that the explorer saw only the huge stone faces peering at him from the treetops.



Galloway.

To the Khymers, who built Angkor, snakes were sacred. On every side one sees images of cobras with seven heads. Leading to one of the great Victory Gates is a roadway bordered by two lines of stone giants, each eight feet tall, holding the long body of a huge seven-headed stone cobra. A Chinese traveler who visited Angkor when it was the living capital of a rich empire wrote about this amazing snake-monument: "On each side of the road there are 54 genii who look like gigantic and terrible generals turned to stone—108 statues all together. They hold the body of a sacred cobra. The top of the cobra's head is three times as high as a tall man."

To the Khymers, who built Angkor, snakes were sacred. On every side one sees images of cobras with seven heads. Leading to one of the great Victory Gates is a roadway bordered by two lines of stone giants, each eight feet tall, holding the long body of a huge seven-headed stone cobra. A Chinese traveler who visited Angkor when it was the living capital of a rich empire wrote about this amazing snake-monument: "On each side of the road there are 54 genii who look like gigantic and terrible generals turned to stone - 108 statues all together. They hold the body of a sacred cobra. The top of the cobra's head is three times as high as a tall man."



Excerpt from Proof of Vedic Culture's Global Existence:

NORTH AND SOUTH VIETNAM, CAMBODIA AND LAOS

This area was also once a part of the great Vedic empire. The port of Saigon, for example, was named using a Sanskrit word, *Gaon*, which means a town, and the suffix means many, so it means "many townships." The Mekong River was named after "Ma Ganga," or Mother Ganga (the Ganges).

The name Laos is pronounced as Lava by the local people in memory of Lava, the son of Lord Ramachandra. The capital of Laos is Vientiane, pronounced as Van Chan by the local people, which is a corrupt form of the Sanskrit word Vana Chandan, meaning a forest of sandalwood trees.

A more obvious form of Vedic influence in the Far East can also be seen. There were those who converted from the Far Eastern doctrines and directly engaged in the Vedic tradition. As far east as Kampuchea, we can find temples built by kings of ancient Cambodia, such as Angkor Wat, a large and well known temple complex devoted to Lord Vishnu and the Vedic demigods. Here *Wat* means banyan tree and *Angkor* means its sprout. The surrounding area is still called by the Indian name of *Aranya Pradesh*.

The area of northwestern Cambodia was called Angkor, where the capital of the ancient Khmer Empire was located through the 9th to 15th centuries A.D. The empire was one of the largest in the history of the area and had expanded to include all of Cambodia and most of Vietnam, Laos, and Thailand. It was Jayavarman II, the first great king of Angkor, who introduced the Indian Vedic system of philosophy to that area. Since his reign, it became a

tradition that every king of the region would build a large temple which was dedicated to either Vishnu or Shiva. After the king's death, the structure would also serve in memory of the king who had built it. Over the years, more than 70 large and magnificently carved temples were built. Ruins of the temples are spread over an area of 100 kilometers. Images of the Vedic deities of Brahma, Vishnu, and Shiva intersperse the surrounding walls. One most noteworthy sculpture is that showing the demigods and demons churning the ocean using the Vasuki serpent and the Mandara mountain as the turning rod.

Among the ruins have been found numerous images of the Vedic deities and inscriptions mentioning the names of the Indian kings who once ruled over the kingdom. Some of the names include Jayavarman and Suryavarman. The museum at Pnom Penh is full of Vedic images and inscriptions.

Hundreds of architects and thousands of laborers were required for years to build each of these temples. Angkor Wat ("temple of the capital"), the greatest and best known of these temples, was built by Suryavarman II in the early 12th century, taking thirty years to complete. The temple complex was designed to represent the Vedic descriptions of the cosmological arrangement of the universe. Thus, the Vedic knowledge had been known and respected in the orient for many years.

One interesting point to consider is that though the main temples at Angkor Wat were built less than 1000 years ago, the ground plans for these temples match the constellation of Draco as it would have appeared in the sky in 10,500 B.C. This means that the site itself is much older than the buildings on it. Furthermore, Draco is directly opposite the constellation of Orion in the sky, which has been connected with the ancient Egyptian pyramids.

This may lead one to consider that the sites of Angkor Wat, the Egyptian pyramids, along with many other ancient places around the world, were once connected to a vast, global culture that was highly knowledgeable about astronomy, and used it in its architecture and mystical constructions, amongst other things...

SOURCE MATERIALS:

*Travels in the Central Parts of Indo-China (Siam), Cambodia, and Laos,
During the Years 1858, 1859 and 1860.*

By the late M. Henri Mouhot, French Naturalist.

In Two Volumes.- Vol.I With Illustrations

Chapter XII

pp.278-303

London: John Murray, Albermarle Street, 1864.

London: Printed by William Clowes and Sons, Stamford Street, and Charing Cross.

Richard Halliburton's

Second Book of Marvels

The Orient

A TALE FROM THE JUNGLE

Chapter XXVIII

pp.271-282

©1938 The Bobbs-Merrill Company

Proof of Vedic Culture's Global Existence

Chapter Twelve

The Vedic Influence in the Orient

pp.233-234

©2000 by Stephen Knapp

Published by The World Relief Network

Providing Knowledge Of

Reality Distinguished From Illusion

For The Welfare Of All

Composed and Edited November 19, 2024

by John P Stayton and Bhakta John Jagannatha